



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MAKES BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CITY COUNCIL VOTE TO CUT POSITIONS

San Diego, CA: The City Attorney's Office has begun making adjustments to the office in response to the majority vote of the San Diego City Council on June 11, 2007, to cut funding for 14 of 17 supplemental deputy city attorney positions, which had been on the City Attorney's payroll prior to City Attorney Michael Aguirre assuming office on December 6, 2004. Councilmember's Donna Frye and Tony Young opposed the cuts to the City Attorney's budget.

"Last year, the City Attorney's Office attempted to correct the budget practice of carrying supplemental positions, but the Mayor's Office instructed the City Attorney to wait until the Fiscal Year '08 budget," said City Attorney Aguirre. "After initially supporting the restoration of a majority of the supplemental positions, the Mayor's office changed course and recommended that the City Council retain funding for only three of the positions."

The three positions are in the Public Finance Unit and were created by City Council ordinance in October 2004, as a result of twin federal investigations into the City's flawed financial disclosure practices. The positions had also been carried as supplemental positions even though they had been created via City ordinance.

Through a combination of layoffs, resignations and reassignments, 6.5 positions have been eliminated from the Criminal Division and 4.0 positions from the Civil Division. These actions result in the reduction of 10.5 positions and the remaining 3.5 positions will occur through normal attrition in the Criminal Division.

The budgetary impacts also include the elimination in the Criminal Division of the Public Integrity Unit and that deputy city attorney has been reassigned. In addition, the Drug Abatement Response Team lost a deputy city attorney and two positions were eliminated from the Neighborhood Prosecution Unit.

On May 7, May 23, and June 6, 2007, City Attorney Aguirre presented his budget to the City Council's Budget & Finance Committee and discussed the importance of continuing to fund the supplemental positions, which existed prior to Aguirre becoming City Attorney. On May 23, 2007, Assistant City Attorney Chris Morris provided a list of the supplemental positions that would be impacted if budget cuts

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went forward; these included two neighborhood prosecutor positions, which serve the Fourth and Eighth Council Districts:

Councilmember Tony Young: "Let's talk about what the positions are."

Assistant City Attorney Chris Morris: "Right now we have a schedule that shows our budgeted strength and where the supplemental positions are...You have two in the Neighborhood Prosecution unit; those are for Districts 4 and District 8..."

On May 7, 2007, the Mayor's Office through Chief Financial Officer Jay Goldstone, in remarks to the Budget Committee acknowledged the existence of the supplemental positions and agreed to fund 12.29 of the 17 Deputy City Attorney positions.

Jay Goldstone:

"In discussions with the Mayor and to be consistent, we could support adding 12.29 positions..."

On May 15, 2007, the City Attorney released Interim Report #17 Special Report to the City Council Regarding Sunroad Centrum 12 and Sunroad Residential Development. That same day the Mayor's Office contacted the City Attorney and told him that they could no longer support the City Attorney's budget needs.

The Civil Division of the City Attorney's Office defends the City in civil lawsuits and advises the City Council and City Departments on matters of law. The Criminal Division engages its public safety mission by prosecuting misdemeanor offenses that are committed in the City of San Diego and the City of Poway.

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